(e) The Government has taken the following steps to ensure timely and proper development of captive block:—

(i) Regular monitoring through the Coal Controller's Organisation.

(ii) Quarterly Review at the Ministry level, where other related Ministries/ Departments and State Governments are also represented.

(iii) Enforcement of terms and conditions of mining lease by the State Governments.

**Black marketing of coal due to shortage**

267. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of less production of coal than that of the demand its black marketing has taken place;

(b) the total coal production and consumption during the last three years from 2003-04 to 2005-06 in the country;

(c) the road map to meet increasing demand of coal as a source of energy with having only 9.3 per cent of world coal reserves in the country; and

(d) whether it is a fact that imported coal is cheaper than that of our coal and the countries from which the coal is imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The overall raw coal demand for the year 2005-06 was estimated by the Planning Commission at 445.65 million tones and production was estimated at 406.48 million tones. The actual production during 2005-06 was about 406 million tonnes and the gap was met by import of about 37 million tones (Provisional), which has higher calorific value compared to indigenous coal. Therefore, less production could not be attributed to black marketing, if any.

(b) The coal production and off take during the three years from 2003-04 to 2005-06 in the country is given below:—

(figures in million tonnes)

| Year | Production | Offtake |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 361.255 | 359.318 |
| 2004-05 | 382.615 | 379.835 |
| 2005-06 (Provisional) | 406.996 | 396.656 |

(c) There is a proven reserve of 95.399 billion tonnes of coal as on 1.1.2006. Coal India Limited has taken the following steps to increase indigenous production:-

(i) 73 coal projects, including expansion/extension projects, at an estimated investment of Rs. 9920.84 crores, with an ultimate capacity of 149.185 million tonnes per year, have been sanctioned during Tenth Plan period and is being developed for increase in coal production.

(ii) improvement in equipment utilization.

(iii) timely implementation of projects.

(iv) mechanization/modernization of existing mines.

(v) all new mines being planned with mechanization

(vi) increasing productivity in both underground and open cast mines.

(vii) emergency coal production has been planned for increasing production in existing mines/projects.

Further, Government has allotted 97 coal blocks to approved end users like Power, Iron and Steel.

(d) In general, the landed price of imported coal on comparable basis is higher than the domestic coal, at most places except some locations in coastal areas. Imports of coal are made mainly from Australia, South Africa, China, Indonesia and Newzealand.

**Committee's recommendations for import of coal**

268. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee, headed by T.L. Shankar, set up to recommend measures to meet the demand-supply gap and also to examine the current policy on captive coal mines etc. has, in the first part of its recent report, highlighted, *inter-alia*, that the country will face pronounced coal shortages over the next four years and recommended import of high grade thermal coal; and

(b) if so, the details of other major recommendations/observations made by the Committee and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?